Food Production during Ninth Plan

24. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to double food production during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) considering the fact that the average growth rate of food production over the last two decades has averaged only 2.7 per cent, how Government plan to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. The Ninth Plan targets for production of foodgrains has been fixed at 234 million tonnes by the Planning Commission.

(b) To achieve the target, the Ninth Plan envisages adoption of regionally differentiated strategy based on agro-climatic resources and natural resources in different areas and for this purpose, a number of Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes are being implemented in various States.

Co-Operative Farming in Konkan Region

25. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a co-operative farming concept would be developed in Konkan region of Maharashtra with the assistance of National Dairy Development Board;

(b) if so, what is the time-frame and modalities of the project;

(c) whether the PSU, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. would also be involved in the development of this project; and

(d) if so, the details of this involvement be furnished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No Sir. No proposal for development of cooperative farming

concept in Konkan region of Maharashtra with the assistance of National Dairy Development Board is under consideration of the Government, so far.

(b) to (d) Quesiton do not arise.

Policy of Granting Relief

26. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy in the matter of grating relief to the flood and drought affected areas in the country; and

(b) the details of year-wise and State-wise grants released during the last three years for each of the calamities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The policy and arrangements for financing of relief expenditure in the States in the wake of natural calamities, including flood and drought, are at present governed by the recommendations of the Xth Finance Commission. While year-wise allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) are made to all the States, assistance from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) is considered for calamities of rare severity only.

(b) Statements-I and II indicating the funds allocated to the States under CRF and assistance provided under NFCR during 1996-97 to 1998-99 are attached.